Numb. 1055

The Daily Gazetteer.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 1738.

№ 1063.

I HAVE often wonder'd, that considering the great Obligations they have to that Quality, some Writers of my Acquaintance, were never pleased to favour the Publick with an Essay upon *Assurance*; but, perhaps, like the *Secret* of the *Free Masons*, it is never to be expected from Fraternity in any other Shape than we see it daily; that is, diffused from the Beginning to the End of all their Papers. *Assurance* then, in the Sense I understand it, is a certain Boldness, which makes a Man, for the Sake of Interest or Party, speak and act falsely, with the same outward Calmness and Composure of Mind, that ought to be observed by a Servant of Truth. The Possession of this Quality, hath been always esteemed necessary, and, indeed, hath been found no less necessary, than it is esteemed, by all Sorts of Factions, Ecclesiastical and Civil; and, as the Learned have long ago observed, hath done every thing but Miracles in their Service. For my own part I think this Exception needless; for imposing Absurdities on whole Nations, and establishing Incredibilities for Articles of Faith, be no kind of Miracles, they may at least be reckon'd the most monstrous Things, which easily pass for Miracles with the Vulgar.

HEATHEN Superstition and Idolatry were first introduced into the World under that Title, which, of all others, they least deserve, I mean Religion, whose Use was of special Use: A Man, who could speak heartily, and without blushing, palmed his own Dreams on the People for divine Revelations; and the Head of a little *Colony*, not satisfied with the Honour of Peopling a Part of the World, took upon him to give an Account of the Inhabitants of Heaven, circumstantially as if he had come from thence. And it is notorious was the Conduct of all the *Greek* Legislators; and such too was the Behaviour of *Numa*, who gave Laws to *Rome*, and who, tho' he took so much Pains to teach the People to worship the Gods, is himself shrewdly suspected not to have been ignorant of the *true One*. The Assurance of *Numa* was of the solemn Kind; that of his Predecessor *Proculus*, who swore that *Romulus* had appeared to him, and directed himself to be worshiped under the Name of *Quirinus*, was of a bolder Sort; which *Numa* never questioned it, but suffered this Cheat to pass, that his own Deceits might escape Enquiry. The *Jews* themselves had false Prophets among them, who, by their Assurance, and by their sticking to popular Doctrines, frequently got the better of the true. The same Principle has been of equal Service to the Innovators on the Christian Religion, and most of the Heresies which have disturbed the Church, have taken Rise from, or been supported by the consummate Assurance of a few Persons.

In the Days of *Popish* Darkness, *Assurance* enabled the most Ignorant of the *Priests*, to delude the most refined of the *Laity*; and which is still more extraordinary, to engage them in defending by *Force*, the Errors imposed on them by *Fraud*. The same thing may be said of several *Fanatical* Sects which started up in the Dawn of the *Reformation*; such as the *Anabaptists* and *Familists* in *Holland* and *Germany*; and the Attempts of *Hacket*, *Coppinger*, and their Associates here. Whoever considers what in this Kind has been performed by *Assurance* in all Ages, will see just Cause not to give implicit Belief to any Thing which is endeavoured to be imposed upon him, let it be back'd with what Authority it will; for no Authority, *sacred* or *civil*, can change the Nature of Things, make Truth become Falshood, or turn good Truth, or create an Obligation of believing the Conceptions of Men as fallible as ourselves: It was a just Sense of this, that put our Divines, immediately after the *Reformation*, upon examining Religion by the Tests of *Scripture* and *Reason*, and enabled them to constitute our *national Church*, as to require nothing from any Man, in order to his being a Member thereof, which is not consistent with both. Some of their *Successors* indeed, have been not a little touched with *Fanaticism*; and, in consequence thereof, have, with great *Assurance*, laid down their own *Notions* as the Laws of the *Church*; but they have been so quickly, and so solidly refuted, that no great Inconveniencies have sprung from thence, which I look upon to have been a great Happiness for the People, as well as it is (in the Sight of impartial Men) a great Honour to the Church.

BUT if *Assurance* hath enabled religious Impostors to do Wonders, it has been used no less successfully by Deceivers in State. *Marius* and *Cæsar*, tho' they were wicked enough to intend nothing but their own private Advantage, yet wanted not the *Assurance* to call themselves Friends to Liberty. It was this *Assurance* that enabled them to carry their secret Intentions into Execution, and to find among the People the Instruments of enslaving the People. In the *Netherlands*, when the Duke of *Alva* and his Adherents were committing the most abominable Cruelties, and the most barefaced Acts of Violence and Oppression, they had the *Assurance* to boast themselves Defenders of Church and State, and had the good Luck to make the King of *Spain* believe, they were the most faithful of his Subjects, while they were losing him a Part of his Dominions, and exhausting all the rest. In *France*, during the Time of the *League*, the Faction that committed the most open *Insults* on the *Laws*, had the *Assurance* to plead their Authority for all they did; and the *Craftsmen* of *Paris*, who had no Authority but what they derived from their Sovereign Lords the *People*, had the *Assurance* to hang a *President* of *Parliament* in his Robes, on the bare Suspicion of his having better Intentions than themselves; such was, and such ever will be the Case, when the Judgments of private Men are preferred to the Constitution of a Nation, merely because they have more *Assurance* than their Neighbours.

OUR own Country hath afforded as many and as extraordinary Instances of this Sort, as any on the Face of the Globe. Amongst us, *Blacksmiths* have taken upon them to hammer out new Schemes of Government; and *Thatchers* have been graciously pleased to turn *Legislators*. *Impostors* have had the *Assurance* to give themselves out for Princes; and what is still more extraordinary, we have seen *mean Fellows* every way affront and abuse *Princes* with Impunity, merely because they had the *Assurance* to boast of a mighty Affection to the *People*. If this had been only under bad Princes or wicked Administrations, it would not have been so surprizing; but when we consider, that the best Kings and wisest Governments have met with the worst Treatment from these sort of Political Enthusiasts, it is not a little amazing. When the Laws were violated in the Days of King *James*, by those who had made them their Study, and were sworn to defend them, it was very natural for the People to complain; but surely it could not be called natural, when the very same Persons who had concurred in settling the Government at the Revolution, exerted their utmost Endeavours to unhinge it afterwards. Yet we know, and I was going to say, we feel, that this was the *Patriotism* of those Days, when the *Patriots* run the *Publick* in *Debt*, and laid that *Load* on *Posterity*, against which their *Successors* have so copiously declaimed. Much of this *Assurance* we have seen in later Times, and on Occasions which I forbear to mention, because I study to avoid Reproaches, and would rather pour Water than Oil on those Flames of Party, which too often to this Day burst out amongst us, and which so many employ themselves to keep alive, as if they were afraid of seeing their Country in quiet; but in Compliance with their own unhappy Tempers, chose rather to keep her as restless as themselves.

IF, therefore, *Assurance* hath done so much Mischief, how cautious ought we to be of such as support themselves by nothing else. That there are bad Administrations as well as good ones, is very certain; but that good ones have been as ill-treated as bad ones, is certain too; and when this hath happened, who hath suffered? Surely the People, and that doubly! For, first, they have been cheated out of a Government that protected them. And, secondly, they had those imposed upon them for *Rulers*, who have had nothing in View but advancing their own *private Ends*. But it will be said, what Remedy can there be prescribed for this Evil? To which I answer, this plain and short one, of distinguishing between *Assurance* and *Proof*. The former is the sole support of *false Patriots*, the latter is constantly appealed to and produced by true ones. Dreams, Parallels, Allegories, Applications from Scripture, or Passages from ancient Authors; all these as they may be urged against any *Government*, are Evidences against *none*. We may say the same thing of general Invectives, Declamations against Tyranny and Evil Ministers; for as these may be made at all *Times*, it is plain they may be *ill timed*; and therefore those who use them, have no Title to be called *Patriots*, unless they can shew, that they use them for some *good Purpose*. It may be said, that in some Cases, this may be dangerous, which I admit; but then I insist upon it, that the producing *Proofs* can never be dangerous at a Time, when the general Methods before mention'd are suffered with Impunity, or while our Constitution is in full *Force* and *Vigour*; while we have an annual Sessions of Parliament, and the utmost *Freedom* of *Debate*. In such Circumstances, if *Raillery* is returned when *Proof* is demanded, we may conclude, that tho' there may be *Wits* in the *Opposition*, their *Patriotism* is a mere *Joke*, which should incline every honest Man to turn the *Jest* upon them, rather than suffer them to turn it on the *Nation*, which they will not want *Assurance* enough to do, if we have not *Spirit* enough to *prevent* them.

R. FREEMAN.

FOREIGN PORTS.

Alicant, Nov. 5. Arrived since my last, the George, Beal; and the Charming Molly, Woolcott, both from Newfoundland; also the Ann, Tooley, from Penzance.

HOME PORTS.

Falmouth, Nov. 13. Arrived the Henry and Margaret, ——, from Malaga; and the George, Moon, from Valentia, who is sailed again.

Deal, Nov. 17. Wind S. by W. Remains the Chester Man of War; with the Addison, Wadge, for Port Mahon and Antigua; the Samuel and James, Orrock, for New England. Came down and sailed, the True Love, Green, for Port Louis. Arrived the Trimmer, Redard, from Faro.

Deal, Nov. 18. Wind S. S. W. Remains his Majesty's Ship the Chester; the Addison, Wadge, for Port Mahone; the Hannah, Pearson, for Gibraltar; the Samuel and James, Orrock, for New England; the Loval Herbert, ------, for Exon. Arrived the Lilly, Townshend, from Oporto

LONDON.

Yesterday his Majesty, attended by his Royal Highness the Duke and the Princesses Amelia and Caroline, went to the Royal Chapel at St. James's, and heard a Sermon preached by the Reverend Dr. Trevor.

Last Week the Hon. Col. Murray, Brother to the Earl of Dunmore, was married to Miss Armytage of the County of York, a Fortune of 30,000 l.

Last Saturday Morning his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, attended by several Persons of Distinction, took the Diversion of hunting a Hind in Windsor Forest.

Last Saturday Night died at Sudbrook, near Petersham in Surry, the Rev. Mr. Charles Ashford, M. A. Chaplain to the Right Hon. the Earl of Pomfret.

The same Day died at his Lodgings in Holles-street, John Newnham, Esq; a Gentleman in the Commission of the Peace for the County of Kent.

Yesterday the Right Hon. the Earl and Countess of Chesterfield came from the Bath to their House in Grosvenor's Square.

On Saturday last the Lady of the Right Hon. Stephen Poyntz, Esq; one of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, and Preceptor to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, was safely delivered of a Daughter at his Apartment in St. James's Palace.

The Right Hon. the Countess of Stafford, who has been dangerously ill at her House in Sackville-street, Piccadilly, is in a fair way of Recovery.

Of

On Saturday last died at Cambridge, the Rev. Mr. Tillotſon, who was a near Relation to the late Archbiſhop of Canterbury of that Name; and he dying a Batchelor, left his Eſtate to his Kinſwoman, Mrs. Mary Tillotſon, who about two Years ſince married Mr. Windſor, jun. of Throgmorton-ſtreet.

On Saturday Morning laſt about two o'Clock, a Fire broke out in a Stow Chimney belonging to the Three Tun Tavern in Swithin's Alley, Cornhill, but was happily extinguiſhed without doing any conſiderable Damage.

A few Days ſince died at his Seat near Exeter, John Ruſſell, Eſq; a Gentleman of a large Eſtate in Devonſhire, and was formerly High Sheriff of that County.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Tankerville, who has been dangerouſly ill for ſome time paſt at his Seat at Swinley Lodge, is now in a fair way of Recovery.

High Water this Day at London Bridge.	Morning	Evening
	05 03	05 24

Bank Stock 143 1-8th to 1-4th. India 173 1-4th. South Sea 104. Old Annuity 111 7-8ths to 1-half. New ditto 111 7-8ths to 1-half. Three per Cent. 105 to 1-4th. Seven per Cent. Loan 111 1-8th to 1-4th. Five per Cent. Ditto 100 1-4th. Royal Aſſurance 108. London Aſſurance 13 3-4ths. African 14. India Bonds 6 l. 17 s. Prem. South Sea ditto, 2 l. 13 s. Premium. Bank Circulation 1 l. 7 s. 6 d. Prem. Salt Tallies 1-half to 2 1-half Prem. Engliſh Copper 3 l. 15 s. Welſh ditto 15 s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 6 1-half per Cent. Prem. Three per Cent. ditto 3-4ths per Cent. Prem. Million Bank 122.

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But theſe its admirable Properties, by which it vaſtly exceeds any Thing whatever for the like Purpoſe, have occaſioned many to imitate it under various other Names, beware therefore of ſuch Impoſitions, the true ROYAL BEAUTIFYING FLUID, that has given ſuch univerſal Satisfaction to the Ladies of Diſtinction, being only to be had at Mr. Radford's Toyſhop above-mentioned at 3 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions and no where elſe in England

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